THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) During the 7 months period of April 93 to October 93, a total quantity of 4811 MTs of foodgrains was categorised as damaged in FCI godowns out of an average stock holding of 158.57 lakh tonnes. The quantity found to be damaged works out 0.003 per cent. The value of damaged stocks amounted to Rs. 1.94 crores.

(b) Damages to foodgrains occur due to unprecedented natural causes like excessive/unprecedented rains, floods, cyclone etc.

(c) In the past, the experience has been that the damage to foodgrains in the FCI apart from the natural causes, was mostly due to rains and leakages in godowns. The repairs and periodical maintenance of godowns are promptly undertaken and efforts are made to unload the stocks in the covered accommodation to avoid any damage during rainy season. During the monsoon season, the stocks are moved only in selected covered wagons. In addition, the following steps are taken to prevent any damage:

(i) To construct more godowns on scientific lines which are rodent and damp proof.

(ii) Quick movement of stocks to safer place.

(iii) Creation of more storage space for storage of grains in safer places.

(iv) Evacuation of grains stored in temporary plinths to safer and nearby areas.

(v) Qualified and technically trained staff are deployed for periodical inspection, preservation and proper upkeep of foodgrains.

(vi) Preservation including fortnightly prophylactic treatment and also timely curative treatment to arrest pest infestation.

(vii) Aeration and ventilation of stocks is done one all working d during fair weather to avoid deteri tion and infestation of the stored fc grains.

(viii) Monthly priority programm made in each depot to issue foodgr mostly on the basis of quality reta and as far as possible the principl 'first in first out' is adhered to.

FAO's Prediction regarding India's S Production

2130. SHRI KAMAL MORAR Will the Minister of FOOD be please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FAO predicted an increase in Indian's s production during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what target has been fixed by (ernment for the production of sugar;

(d) what is the likely production

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI K. NATH RAI): (a) and (b) As per F latest available journal for he montl October, 1993 it has been indicated tl in that India's production will also inc following the implementation by th vernment of measures to improve financial condition of mills. There i specific mention about the likely pro tion during 1993-94.

(c) The Committee constituted to mulate development programme for s industry for 8th Five Year Plan has the target of sugar production for sugar year 1993-94 at 127.6 lakh to

(d) A meeting of State Secretarie charge of Sugar/Sugarcane was held 3-9-1993 in Krishi Bhavan and it wa sessed therein that the total sugar pro tion during 1993-94 season is likely t around 107 lakh tonnes.